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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 17, 2003**

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### **TWO MEN SENTENCED TO 27 MONTHS INCARCERATION FOR TRANSPORTING 44 ILLEGAL ALIENS IN A U-HAUL TRUCK**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA** –The United States Attorneys Office for the District of Arizona, announced that on July 15, 2003, Jorge Luis Ortiz-Santiago, date of birth December 28, 1976, and Pedro Santos-Santos, date of birth August 22, 1971, both of Oaxaca, Mexico, were sentenced to 27 months (2 years, 3 months) incarceration, by United States District Judge John M. Roll, in Tucson, Arizona.

This case arose on February 24, 2003, when U.S. Border Patrol Agents stopped a U-Haul truck near North Komelik, Arizona. Jorge Luis Ortiz-Santiago was the driver of the U-Haul, and Pedro Santos-Santos was a passenger in the cab. Also in the cab of the truck were 2 other individuals, including one sitting on the floor board. In the cargo area, which was latched shut, Agents discovered 42 more individuals. There was no ventilation system in the cargo area. All occupants of the vehicle, including the Defendants, were in the United States illegally. Defendants admitted to the Agents that they picked the truck up in Phoenix and drove it to a location on the Tohono O'Odham Nation to pick up the aliens, utilizing a detailed hand drawn map which agents recovered from under the driver's seat. The Aliens were loaded into the truck and the cargo door was closed and fastened. The U-Haul truck was on its way to the delivery point in

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Phoenix when it was stopped. Defendants also admitted they were going to be paid fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each illegal alien they delivered.

Jorge Luis Ortiz-Santiago and Pedro Santos-Santos had entered pleas of guilty on April 3, 2003, to Transportation of Illegal Aliens for the Purpose of Commercial Advantage or Private Financial Gain, pursuant to Title 8 U.S.C. Section 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii) and 1324(a)(1)(B)(i).

At the sentencing hearing , the Court found the Defendants conduct to be “very serious”, in light of the “very dangerous method of transportation”, which created a substantial risk of death or serious bodily injury.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the United States Border Patrol, with the assistance of the Tohono O’Odham Police Department.

The prosecution was handled by Melinda K. Mendes, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR. 03-0719-TUC-JMR  
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